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ABSTRACT ELECTROCHEMICAL TREATMENT OF METALS

A method for treating a metal comprises subjecting the metal to electrolysis in the presence of an electrolyte using alternating pulses of voltage and/or current, said alternating pulses being of opposite polarity, wherein if the electrolyte is an aqueous electrolyte it is an aqueous solution of a salt selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts, alkali earth metal salts, aluminium salts and ammonium salts. The method is effective in improving the surface properties of the metal, such as hardness, friction and wear properties.